

Dear Members of the State Legislature,

I cannot reiterate the importance of the library in our society. Being a librarian, I can say without a doubt that the library is more than just a place for books. It is about a million other things that we do in that building that make it one of the most heavily-used places in a town or city, with one goal in mind: to simply help people grow and learn. With proper funding, libraries can be a whole lot more.

We need to make our citizens smarter by giving them the tools they need to become world-class, productive players in our world. Libraries can be that place where they can be given a chance for this. We need to say to our fellow citizens that we believe in your talents and provide them a chance in which to invent, to teach, and, above all, to dream.

Working class families that have mortgages and bills, come to the library.

Single moms trying to make ends meet, come to the library.

Veterans striving to fit back into society, come to the library.

It is these groups of people and many others, who will lose out if state library funds are cut.

They seek the library to find a simple book to read, write a resume for a job, or bring their child for story. They take a computer class, get a Passport renewed, or get a document notarized. They find out about their family genealogy, print their boarding passes for their trip, or learn about downloading eBooks. The library serves in all these capacities and much, much more.

I am sure many of you out there, all have an early memory of going to the library.

I ask you to support libraries and to remember that one time when you needed the library and it was there.

Thank You and God Bless,

Chris Hemingway